GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:106
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2009
ABANDONED MINES
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evolved any policy in relation to reclamation of abandoned mines;

(b) if so,the details thereof;

(c) the number of abandoned mines reclaimed/rehabilitated during the last three years;

(d) the number of mine sites identified for reclamation; and

(e) the further action being contemplated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House,

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 106 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON THE 24th FEBRUARY, 2009 REGARDING ABANDONED MINES

(a) & (b): National Mineral Policy,2008,enunciates scientific mine closure after the process of economical extraction in a mine is complete.The Policy further refers to reclamation and re-vegetation of the mined area. The policy also provides for reclamation of old disused mining sites.Since April 2003,the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules,1988,provide that a mining lease holder shall abandon or close his mines in terms of an approved final mine closure plan.

(c) to (e): 297 mine sites,abandoned prior to April 2003,have been identified.Of these,a total of 106 abandoned mine sites were shortlisted for reclamation.Out of the 106 mine sites, in the last three years (2006-08) 16 mine sites are now operational again.The reclamation of abandoned mine sites is as per the policy guidelines.